

International Recovery Platform (IRP) intervention in the First Session of Global Platform, in the Plenary on 7 June 2007 by Anil K Sinha, Programme Advisor.

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005. A thematic platform of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system, the IRP is a key pillar for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

The IRP consists of IRP Partner Organisations and a broader IRP Community of Practice open to the broadest possible range of stakeholders and parties interested in resilient disaster recovery. By coordinating its workplan with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER), the Platform both supports the work of the CWGER and draws on its membership in the establishment of priorities and implementation of activities.

The IRP acts to address the gaps and constraints currently experienced in the context of disaster recovery and functions as an international source of knowledge on good recovery practice. Guided by the Millenium Declaration and the UN's Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), the Platform's strategy is to prevent the recurrence of human suffering and loss of hard-won development gains in the wake of natural disasters by advocating for equitable recovery and the elimination of the physical and socio-economic factors that magnify risk and disaster damage. The IRP's efforts focus on mainstreaming a culture of prevention, mainly by supporting and facilitating the adoption of appropriate recovery practices by disaster-affected populations and their governments with a particular focus on high risk/low capacity countries.

The work of the IRP is manifested in (i) a high level event, bringing together a broad range of senior policy makers and recovery practitioners for an exchange

of experience and frank discussion towards the advancement of the recovery agenda and achievement of the HFA, such as at the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake held in Kobe in January this year; (ii) we will seek close cooperation with the regional platforms as well as with existing regional organisations and networks in promoting and building capacity for resilient recovery. An example of this is a recent initiative in cooperation with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation funded by the Government of Japan in the context of the IRP; and, (iii) in the development of tools and resources to fill identified gaps in recovery practices and capacities, such as the framework for Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Recovery. With the ISDR Secretariat, ADRC and UNDP, we have also recently concluded a report entitled Learning from Disaster Recovery based on analysis of lessons learned from recovery following more than 60 disasters in the last twenty years.

We are currently upgrading our web-site to provide a more effective and interactive gateway to the knowledge of IRP partner organisations and the broader community of practice as well as for a current exchange of knowledge and experience amongst members of the IRP Community of Practice.

IRP will strive to create a new paradigm of recovery which does not recreate risks and vulnerability. In closing, I should like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to a more active engagement in the IRP as it unfolds as a global catalyst for better recovery, and I look forward to keeping you abreast of developments in this regard.